6-9 March 2006 41 Delegates - 5 Workgroups Number of Issues - 107

Senior Officer: COL Mary Deutsch

"Setting Standards of Living for an Expeditionary Army!"

Group 1- Issue #1

TITLE: Fort Detrick Better Opportunity for Single Servicemembers (BOSS) Program Funding

SCOPE: BOSS has no funding for activities from Post MWR. Other Post MWRs assist with funding for BOSS, however Fort Detrick doesn't have a plan to fund the program. Lack of financial support limits BOSS in creating activities for servicemembers.

- 1. Develop a Fort Detrick plan for equal and fair distribution of MWR funds to programs, including BOSS.
- 2. Amend the current Department of the Army regulation to insure funds for the BOSS program.
- 3. Enforce the standards in accordance with AR 215-1, Chapter 4, Section 4-1, paragraph b.

Group 1- Issue #2

ISSUE: Child and Youth Service (CYS) Vacation Policy

SCOPE: CYS fee policy authorizes 2 weeks vacation per fiscal year. This fails to coincide with the Servicemembers annual 30 days of leave. Servicemembers taking more than 14 consecutive days may be charged late fees and face loss of children's slot if they fail to make payment while out of the local area.

- 1. Revise current 2 week leave policy for child care vacation leave to match Servicemembers annual 30 day leave.
- 2. Eliminate regulated late fees if vacation extends past 2 weeks.

Group 1 - Issue #3

ISSUE: Expand Military One Source Sessions

SCOPE: After 6 counseling sessions, clients are referred back to Primary Care Manger (PCM). It takes time for clients to build a rapport during sessions and the problem is not always resolved during the 6 sessions. Switching providers before solving problems could cause a delay in treatment.

- 1. Expand the number of sessions provided by Military One Source.
- 2. After 6 sessions, allow Military One Source to obtain a referral from PCM for more sessions to continue with the same provider.

Group 1 - Issue #4

ISSUE: DOD Civilians Use of Fort Detrick AAFES Facilities

SCOPE: At this time, DOD civilians are not authorized full use of AAFES facilities on Fort Detrick. Currently, AAFES is not capitalizing on a potential source of increased revenue. AAFES and the rest of the Fort Detrick community will benefit from the increase of revenue, because % of AAFES profits helps support MWR.

- 1. Authorize DOD civilians to utilize AAFES facilities.
- 2. Require payment of MD state tax and surcharge for DOD civilians using AAFES facilities.

Group 1 - Issue #5

TITLE: AFFES Military Clothing Sales and Service (MCSS)
Merchandise Inventory

SCOPE: MCSS merchandise inventory is often out of stock. Fort Detrick AAFES does not have MCSS staff to order out of stock merchandise. This forces Soldiers to pay increased prices when using other sources.

- 1. Refine merchandise inventory in order to meet customer demands at Fort Detrick.
- 2. Create an electronic MCSS ordering system to increase and maintain merchandise levels.
- 3. Hire more staff for MCSS department for AAFES.

Group 2 - Issue #1

TITLE: Issued Barracks Furniture Removal

SCOPE: Service Members are not authorized to remove issued barracks furniture. According to Fort Detrick Regulation 210-50, "all furniture must remain in designated rooms at all times." By authorizing removal of issued barracks furniture, larger personal items (i.e. entertainment center, musical equipment, loveseat, etc.) will fit in rooms and alleviate potential fire/safety hazards.

RECOMMENDATION:

Change Fort Detrick Regulation 210-50 to authorize removal of issued barracks furniture.

Group 2 - Issue #2

TITLE: Local Dog Park

SCOPE: There is no designated, enclosed area on Fort Detrick or in Frederick County for dogs to run off-leash. The nearest dog park is in Boyds, Maryland (21.63 miles from Building 810, Fort Detrick). The minimum 60 minute round trip commute to the dog park from Fort Detrick raises issues of safety, risk management, and driving expense. A local dog park will provide a safe, healthy, and caring environment for dogs, owners and the local community.

RECOMMENDATION: Build a local dog park.

Group 2 - Issue #3

TITLE: Trampoline Use In Privatized Housing

SCOPE: GMH residents are not permitted to use their personal trampolines at their assigned quarters. Prior to privatization, residents were allowed trampolines. According to the GMH Fort Detrick Resident Guide, "trampolines are prohibited". Trampoline usage promotes good physical exercise and recreation for residents and their families.

- 1. Change GMH policy to permit GMH residents to utilize their own personal trampolines.
- 2. Eliminate GMH liability from any trampoline related incidents.

Group 3 - Issue #1

ISSUE: School of Choice College Tuition for High School Seniors

SCOPE: High School seniors are apt to choose a college in the state where their parent is stationed because in-state tuition is more affordable. Servicemembers earn less per year than a civilian employee working in the same field, which prohibits the students' freedom to afford and attend a college in any state sponsored schools specializing in their major. Students have a limited selection of desirable higher educational opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize in-state tuition and eligibility for all military high school seniors to school of choice.

Group 3 - Issue #2

ISSUE: Furniture for Teen Center

SCOPE: Since 2000, there has not been any new furniture purchased to accommodate the growing number of teens utilizing the Teen Center on a daily basis. With students transitioning from elementary to middle school, and more post housing units being built, we are anticipating gaining at least 11 additional students. The lack of furniture in the Teen Center and high attendance makes it difficult to instruct camp activities, clubs, facilitate trainings, and provide teen outreach opportunities.

- 1. Purchase adequate new furniture in the Teen Center to accommodate teen enrollment.
- 2. Allow teens to participate in furniture purchase decisions.

Group 3 - Issue #3

ISSUE: Youth Services (YS) Homework Center

SCOPE: YS members have a designated area for music and art, but do not have a separate room for homework. The homework space provided is a shared space where everyone is expected to eat, do crafts, watch television, and socialize. Youth are not getting homework finished due to the noise level, ringing telephones, and patrons coming in and out of the facility.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide a separate space for youth to work on homework or relax and read.

Group 3 - Issue #4

ISSUE: Renovate HOT Dome for Teen Activity Center

SCOPE: Youth Service (YS) teens did not have a gym/fitness center that is available for youth under the age of 16 to use. The YS gym was built as a multipurpose facility and was designed to elementary school gym standards. When holding league games and tournaments, boundary lines, and rules are changed to reflect the small size of our facility. Providing teens with an age appropriate space would encourage enrollment because it would provide a space for additional equipment and activities, i.e. Nautilus equipment, basketball courts, and dance space.

- 1. Renovate HOT Dome for Teen Activity Center.
- 2. Require renovation have teen input.

Group 3 - Issue #5

ISSUE: Crosswalks on Sultan Drive to HOT Dome and Bowling Center

SCOPE: Pedestrians are crossing anywhere on Sultan Drive to access the HOT Dome and Bowling Center. This is dangerous for the pedestrians and drivers. Pedestrians could get hit and drivers could have an accident attempting to avoid hitting a pedestrian.

- 1. Paint crosswalk on Sultan drive to the HOT Dome and Bowling Center.
- 2. Install permanent signs to let drivers know pedestrians are crossing the street.

Group 3 - Issue #6

ISSUE: Sidewalks on Gardner and Sultan Drive

SCOPE: There are no sidewalks from the corner of Ditto and Sultan and also the corner of Chandler and Gardner to access the Bowling Center and HOT Dome. Pedestrians are forced to walk in the street or embankment to access these areas from the housing area and Youth Services. It is unsafe to walk in the street because a pedestrian could be hit by a vehicle or fall into the ditch.

RECOMMENDATION:

Construct a sidewalk on Gardner and Sultan Drive to access the HOT Dome and the Bowling Center.

Group 4 - Issue #1

ISSUE: National Guard (NG) Individual Equipment

SCOPE: NG servicemembers do not have the required equipment to train and deploy. When deployed, NG servicemembers lack of personal equipment affects overall safety and readiness. It also increases costs due to replacement of outdated equipment. Providing the necessary equipment to NG servicemembers improves mission preparedness and saves lives.

RECOMMENDATION:

Field NG equipment based on mission requirements as opposed to service component.

Group 4 - Issue #2

ISSUE: National Guard (NG) Retirement Pay

SCOPE: NG retirement pay does not begin until the servicemember reaches the age of 60. The length of time between fulfilling the 20 year eligibility requirements and the disbursement of the pay benefits can be too long. Paying the NG Soldiers when they are eligible to retire will provide retention and reenlistment incentive, improve morale, and standardize the retirement pay system.

RECOMMENDATION:

Change law to reflect that when 20 year eligibility requirements are met, retirement pay is given regardless of age.

Group 4 - Issue #3

ISSUE: Black Beret with Battle Dress Uniform (BDU)/Army Combat Uniform (ACU)

SCOPE: The black beret is impractical and burdensome to maintain. The beret does not protect soldiers from the elements, which creates a distraction and potential hazard. In addition, the beret requires a high amount of maintenance as compared to the patrol cap. The reinstatement of the patrol cap as the sole type of head gear for BDU/ACU would restore usefulness to the full uniform and reduce the required maintenance.

RECOMMENDATION:

Change the uniform regulation to establish patrol cap as the only head gear for BDU/ACU.

Group 4 - Issue #4

ISSUE: Healthy Workplace Program

SCOPE: The Healthy Workplace Program ends after six months and can only be used one time during their employment. Civilian employees who participated in this program, and who are not afforded flexible work schedules at the completion of the program, are unable to continue exercising. Changing the parameters of this program provides a way to enhance employees' morale, health, and productivity.

- 1. Amend the time frame parameter from six months to an indefinite period of time.
- 2. Promote awareness of the program.

Group 4 - Issue #5

ISSUE: Barracks Doors/Window Seals

SCOPE: The barracks rooms have noticeable drafts at the doors and windows. As a result, Soldiers have to adjust their thermostats to compensate for the lack of temperature control. This is a potential health hazard due to the constant fluctuation in ambient temperature and over drying of the air. If the doors and windows were more properly sealed, less energy would be wasted and Soldiers' morale and health would improve.

RECOMMENDATION:

Increase efficiency of doors and windows to keep barracks rooms climatized (i.e. weather stripping or new doors and windows).

Fort Detrick 2006 AFAP Conference Group 4 - Issue #6

ISSUE: Safety Lights in Parking Lot Behind Gym and Surrounding Area

SCOPE: The lighting in the back parking lot of the gym, track, and surrounding areas is insufficient. Many employees and customers of the gym and bldg. 1520 park in this overflow lot and walk around this area to get to work. In the evening and early morning, especially during the winter months, it is dark and this presents safety hazards and personal security concerns. Installing more lighting in these areas will increase safety and decrease security concerns.

RECOMMENDATION:

Increase existing lighting and install additional lighting in these areas.

Group 5 - Issue #1

ISSUE: Clothing Allowance Increase

SCOPE: Current clothing allowance does not account for the cost difference to transfer from BDUs to ACUs and maintain the current clothing bag. The military has changed uniforms and therefore, should provide the change in cost. By increasing the clothing allowance, more Soldiers will be capable of attaining the newly required ACU prior to the mandated wear date.

- 1. Issue first complete set of ACUs to include boots and accessories.
- 2. Provide a 1:1 exchange for permanent party enlisted Soldiers for the initial 2 sets of BDU to ACU.
- 3. Provide a one time addition to the clothing allowance to cover the expense of the new uniform.

Group 5 - Issue #2

ISSUE: Promotion Point Submission

SCOPE: The policy in place requires Soldiers to submit no less than 20 points at a time. A Soldier with 781 points or more has unrestricted point submission. Allowing Soldiers to submit a lesser amount per visit, promotable Soldiers will remain more competitive in attaining the cutoff score.

- 1. Lower the point submission requirement to 10 points.
- 2. Lower unrestricted point submission to include Soldiers with 750 points or more.

Group 5 - Issue #3

ISSUE: Military Personnel Division (MPD) Efficiency

SCOPE: Fort Detrick MPD does not complete tasks in a timely manner. For example, personnel actions take several months to complete and Soldiers are not informed of completion or status. Untimely processing of personnel actions affects orders, promotions, and other aspects of Soldiers' lives.

- 1. Reassess current staffing and increase personnel.
- 2. Authorize more EMILPO access to Tenant Units.

Group 5 - Issue #4

ISSUE: Taxation of Interest from Savings Deposit Program (SDP)

SCOPE: Wages earned in the combat zone are tax exempt. However, interest earned on funds that are placed in the SDP is taxed by the IRS upon mandatory withdrawal. Taxation of interest earned through the SDP theoretically defeats the purpose of the tax exemption given to those who are deployed. By discontinuing the taxing of the SDP interest, Soldier morale and retention will improve, while promoting sound financial planning.

RECOMMENDATION:

SDP interest should be tax-exempt.

Group 5 - Issue #5

ISSUE: Retirement Transition Pay

SCOPE: Soldiers retiring from the Army do not receive a transition bonus. The Army is systematically reducing retirement benefits. Adding transition pay will offset the initial adjustment Soldiers face upon retirement.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide transition bonus to retiring Soldiers.



OVERALL TOP ISSUES

- 1. Clothing Allowance Increase
- 2. Black Beret and Battle Dress
- 3. Promotion Point Submission
- 4. Fort Detrick BOSS Funding
- 5. School of Choice College Tuition
- 6. Crosswalks on Sultan Drive

"Setting Standards of Living for an Expeditionary Army!"

OVERALL MOST VALUABLE SERVICES

- 1. Health Clinic (32)
- 2. Fitness/Sports and CYS (24) Tie
- 3. AAFES Exchange (23)
- 4. Army Community Service (19)
- 5. Commissary (18)

"Setting Standards of Living for an Expeditionary Army!"

"Setting Standards of Living for an Expeditionary Army!"

Thank You!